



What vision do you have of how your community could be better?

Are you looking for a way to make it happen?

Join other community members for an overview and introduction to

CITIZEN LEADERS

A training program teaching effective strategies for being and leading the change you want to see.

Developed by Bliss W. Browne, founder of Imagine Chicago

Tuesday, June 19th in Great Falls
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Best Western Heritage Inn

and

Wednesday, June 20th in Havre
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Duck Inn/Mediterranean Room

Register for Citizen Leaders by visiting either websites below. This workshop is free of charge and sponsored by:



P.O. Box 10892 • Bozeman, MT 59719

(406) 586-2455

www.hopamountain.org



P.O. Box 80 • Havre, MT 59501

(406) 265-3699

www.opportunitylinkmt.org

Imagine *a community where...*

....young people confidently lead the way forward

....schools are thriving community learning centers

....neighborhoods and institutions work together to share ideas and resources

....and all citizens recognize and apply their talents to create a positive future for themselves, their families and their community

Community change thrives in communities where people are valued and enabled to make a meaningful contribution. Isolation and poor education threatens both personal and community futures. What does it take to create an inspiring vision and action plan owned and developed by local people? How is it possible to create an economy in which no one is wasted, in which everyone's contribution counts?

In 1992, Bliss Browne, an Episcopal priest, community activist, mother and banking executive, created *Imagine Chicago* to engage communities in addressing these questions. *Imagine Chicago* encourages individuals and organizations to focus constructively on their capacities and opportunities to make a difference as they

*Understand what is
Imagine what could be
Create what will be*

What Does the Best Possible Future of Your Town Feel Like to You?

Imagine Chicago's work reflects three core processes, focusing participant's efforts by asking constructive questions that draw out the best of the past and build on that foundation to design and create a more vital future.

- **Dialogue**—across cultural, racial, economic and generational boundaries
- **Curriculum Development**—frameworks and organizers to understand, imagine and create projects that build community
- **Network Formation**—to link individuals and organizations committed to developing a positive future for children.



Bliss Browne has worked with communities around the world to cultivate hope and civic engagement while facilitating the development of partnerships across well-established divides of age, race, income, culture and class.



CITIZEN LEADERS

A training initiative developed through *Imagine Chicago*, **Citizen Leaders** enables grassroots leaders to develop local community projects of their own design. The project is designed to enable locally organized citizen groups, including young people, to make a visible difference in their own community and also to increase the leadership capacity of the members of the community.

Who are Citizen Leaders? Any local community residents with vision and commitment brought together into a common training

How does it work? Through a series of workshops, participants will learn how to prepare proposals, organize and implement imaginative community development projects, and evaluate and sustain their project's impact.

What is the Impact? The program develops more effective leaders by teaching a wide variety of community capacity building skills and techniques. Teams take away a sense of vision and knowledge about how to implement that vision.

A good Citizen Leader process

- **Shared Vision**—the whole team feels ownership in the vision and its implementation
- **Mobilizing Energy & Commitment**—people's commitment and partnership make the project happen
- **Focus**—action plans, calendars, organizing grids keep the vision alive and people focused on the next steps
- **Clear Communication**—participants learn to articulate and summarize a powerful story that encourages others
- **Connections/Relationships**—organizations and individuals link to others doing similar things and to outside resources
- **Constant Learning**—participants learn by sharing and through experience useful tips, insights, resources, and relationships that keep the project thriving

Read on about the Miracle Center, a project designed and implemented by participation in the Citizen Leaders training program

Mary Santana grew up in the Humboldt Park area in a family of 10. Throughout her childhood, her family would perform plays in empty parking lots, and Mary said that performing gave her an outlet for her feel-

ings and confidence she would need later in life. In 1993, a deep faith inspired Mary to begin giving back to the Humboldt community. A year later she quit her job at a publishing company to start a children's summer program called Kings Kamp. "Every time I look at these kids, I see myself. I feel as a survivor of the streets I have the ability to help them do more with their life."

Mary began Kings Kamp in 1994, taking kids on many different field trips to museums, theaters and the lake. In 1998, Mary was able to start exploring that dream with the Citizen Leaders program at *Imagine Chicago*, which took her current program and started to combine it with the dreams she had.

What resulted was the **Miracle Center**, an organization that runs programs aiming to teach kids the performing arts at different partner organizations, like schools and churches. The project has helped many youth to develop further talents in the performing arts, and aided children's self-esteem and confidence.



**BE THE CHANGE
YOU WANT TO SEE!**

